

Translation Dutch letter nr.18

Kampen, February 15th 2000.

Dear brothers, sisters, pastors and elders in The Netherlands and Belgium,

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We're now well into the New Year and we're all busy in the work of the Lord. In our last letter we promised that we would deal, in this letter, with the question, if Christians also can be possessed. We have covered the subject of the casting out of demons in unbelievers, in which we saw that people have been troubled, by demons for the last three thousand years. The devil is the same and ministers, evangelists and elders should keep this in mind and be prepared to deal with this, in a biblical way, if confronted with it. The question arises however, if it is possible for a born again Christian to be possessed by a demon or demons. Many Christians would answer "of course it's not possible". Other Christians would say " reality proves differently". They will then go on to recite stories, in which demons have been cast out of born again Christians. What is the truth? Who is right? The necessity of studying the bible for the answer is obvious in the light of these different opinions. In this letter we will be using many quotations which perhaps will make the letter a bit more difficult to follow. You've been warned! To make it simpler to read we have chosen to use the word demons, instead of powers of darkness or evil spirits.

**POSSESSED
UNBELIEVERS**

What happened that the world became enslaved?

Because man is a descendant of Adam, he is a sinner and needs redemption. Once man had listened to satan, he did it more often. Once satan had tempted man, he did it more often too. It became a habit that man was constantly tempted to sin. No, it became even worse. Man sinned from within himself. The Bible says that there is nothing good in man. Paul writes this in the letter to the Romans. Rom.7:18 says: *"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."* King David, the psalmist, expresses it very clearly: *"The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no-one who does good, not even one."* (Ps.14:2,3) Why is it so important to understand that there is no good in man? The answer is, because man is completely responsible for his own actions. Satan does play an important role in this by constantly tempting us, but he is not the chief culprit. It is man himself who is the sinner. Satan will be punished for his deceptions but that is something between him and God and we have nothing to do with that. If it seems that man is in bondage, then that comes because of all the terrible sins that he has committed himself, and is still committing. Paul, with the same view as Jesus, calls these people slaves of sin. (John 8:34, Rom.6:17) It appears as if it's satans fault that we sin, because of the big part he plays in tempting us, but this is not true. Man sins because he is himself a sinner and allows himself to be led and deceived by the devil.

**BONDAGE
RESULT
OF SIN**

Do "indwelling" demons cause Christians to sin?

- The Englishman, Derek Prince, describes in his latest book, which is a kind of biography on the last thirty years of his ministry, several cases where Christians cast out demons. As previously mentioned in earlier letters, Derek Prince feels it is important to know the names of the resident demons. He has mentioned in his book a number of names: "*demon of hate, demon of pride demon of jealousy demon of self pity, demon of unfaithfulness, demon of lies, demon of flirting, demon of touching, demon of adultery, demon of criticism, demon of gossip, demon of murder, demon of rebellion, demon of religion, demon of violence, demon of masturbation, demon of perversion, demon of suicide, demon of witchcraft, demon of anger, demon of rebellion, demon of lust; demon of gluttony demon of nicotine, demon of yoga, demon of alcohol, demon of blasphemy, demon of impure language, demon of doubt and demon of exaggeration.*" * 1 The Dutchman, Hans Koning mentions in his book, "Jezebel-spirit" the same kind of demons and also a few other ones such as: "*demon of manipulation, demon of control, demon of fortune-telling, demon of strife, demon of desire, demon of provocation, demon of domination, demon of sorcery, demon of inferiority and demon of unforgiveness.*" *2
- The American, Robert Liardon also writes in his book, "Destroy the controlling powers", about the "demons of religion", but also about "*demons of control, demons of poverty, demons of fear and demons of bitterness.*" *3
- The Canadian, Rev. Ray McGraw has listed 21 demons, which should be taken into account when counselling Christians. Such as: "*demon of false prophecy, demon of error, demon of disobedience, demon of destruction, demon of jealousy, demon of the anti-Christ, demon of condemnation and demon of indecision.*" *4
- The American psychologist, Ken Thornberg talks about the following demons: "*demons who call themselves Jesus Christ, demons of independence, demons with black boots (women) and the demonic light.*" *5
- The American, Jim Brewer mentions in his book, "Setting the Prisoners Free" the following demons: "*demon of revenge, demon of anger, demon of murder, demon of confusion, demon of alcohol, demon of loneliness, demon of brainwashing, demon of sorrow, demon of pain, demon of crying, demon of sadness, demon of homosexuality, demon of hate for Jehovah God, demon of laziness, demon of selfishness, demon of impatience, demon of haughtiness, demon of self-glorification, demon of suspicion and demon of the flesh.*" *6
- The American couple, Frank and Ida Hammond list in their book, "Demons and Liberation", no less than 250 names of demons. The list consisting of ten pages records similar names of demons that we have just mentioned here. In the foreword they express their gratitude to Derek Prince, from whom they have learned a lot about Christians with residing demons.

**DEMONS
OF SIN**

**FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT**

Comment workgroup: Every Christian receives salvation from Christ at his new birth, he is made righteous before God through Christ and he receives the Holy Spirit as a guarantee. From that moment on, by the grace of God, the process of holiness has begun. Inwardly, he is being renewed daily. He learns to say no to sin and choose the new life. Nevertheless, this is a struggle for him as he has to resist satan and also his own sinful nature. We are aware of the influence on us of demons from the outside, but it is certain that they do not come from inside.(Eph.6:12) It is a matter of walking by faith, learning to resist sin and listening to the indwelling Holy Spirit. The bible describes this as producing the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal.5:22) As opposed to these positive fruits, the sinful nature produces negative fruits, the works of the flesh. (Gal.5:10-22) If we now compare the above

**WORKS OF
THE FLESH**

**STRUGGLE
AGAINST
SIN**

**DEMON OF
MIGRAINE**

mentioned names of demons, it is interesting to see that they look very much like the works of the flesh. The works of the flesh are: *"sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like."* To claim that it is the indwelling demons that produce the works of the flesh in the lives of Christians or in some Christians is not right and also not biblical. When Paul writes in the letter to the Galatians about the works of the flesh, he means the works of the old man in us. In the first chapters of Romans, Paul clearly says that man, whether Jew or Gentile is a sinner. According to him sin comes about because of the old man in us and not because of indwelling demons. In desperation he cries out: *"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin"* (Rom. 7:24-26). Paul doesn't blame indwelling demons for the sin in his life but his own flesh, the old man. Somewhere else in his letters he writes that satan tries to tempt and deceive Christians but he encourages himself and his readers to resist the devil. *"Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil 's schemes "* (Eph. 6:11). When the bible uses the term works of the flesh, it literally means works, results of the flesh. This is a definite act, something that is done by the old man in the Christian, therefore by the Christian himself. He is, and stays responsible for the actions of his old self. Nowhere does the bible ever blame a demon or demons for someone's sin. The sinner is responsible for his own sin. He or she sins and it's not an indwelling demon.

Do "indwelling" demons cause Christians to become ill?

Derek Prince believes this to be so although not in every case. In the book we previously mentioned he lists the following demons of sickness: *"demon of death, demon of fever, demon of stiffness, demon of arthritis, demon of cancer, demon of epilepsy, demon of migraine, demon of thrombosis, demon of asthma, demon of paralysis, demon of headache, demon of rheumatism, demon of weakness, demon of sickness, demon of tiredness, demon of deafness, demon of blindness, demon of dumbness, demon of enteritis and demon of dental decay "*.

Hans Koning doesn't mention in his book, which we previously mentioned, demons that cause sickness. The same goes for the American, Robert Liardon. Rev. Ray McGraw mentions two: *"demon of deafness and the demon of dumbness."* The American, psychologist, Ken Thornberg, the American Jim Brewer and the American couple Hammond do not mention demons, who cause sickness. We can conclude therefore, that it is only Derek Prince who states there are such demons indwelling Christians. There will certainly be others who think the same as Derek Prince. We however, don't know about them. He wrote in his last newsletter at the end of last year that he had cancer. After an operation to remove the tumour he should have followed a course of treatment. This wasn't necessary as an Anglican pastor prayed for him and the demon of cancer was cast out. He felt the demon leaving his stomach and according to him, he is now healed. *7

Comment workgroup: Medical science has been trying for years to find out the cause of sickness. Although they have made a lot of progress they have still a long way to go. It has not yet been confirmed, that in some cases demons could be the cause. At least, we don't know about it. Derek Prince has no support from medical science.

**DEMON OF
CANCER?**

**DEMON OF
SELF PITY**

Most Christians would point to the fall of man in Paradise as the general cause of sickness. When God punished Adam and Eve for their sin and confronted them with death, the physical condition of man started to deteriorate. Sickness entered. This applies to everyone, Christian and non-Christian alike. We read about these things in the Bible. This is simply a fact. To say that sickness is a result of indwelling demons is a contradiction to the facts. In Job's case, satan was given permission for a short time to make his body sick. There was a spiritual purpose behind it. After the time of testing it wasn't necessary to cast out demons. He was healthy again. In the New Testament we read several times of Jesus casting out demons where there was also a sickness. Here we could conclude that Derek Prince is therefore right. Jesus however, never passed this on to His disciples as the standard model to follow. After Pentecost, we never read about the disciples healing people by casting out demons.

We believe therefore, that Derek Prince's claims are weak and have no biblical foundation. (see letter no 11, 29-11-97) Do "indwelling" demons make Christians spiritually or emotionally ill? Derek Prince believes that this is so. He has encountered in his ministry the following demons: *"demon of oppression, demon of fear, demon of self-pity, demon of claustrophobia, demon of helplessness, demon of stress, demon of depression, demon of misery, demon of loneliness, demon of worry, demon of restlessness, demon of desperation, demon of doubt and demon of schizophrenia."* Hans Koning agrees with him. He mentions in his book the following demons: *"demon of rejection, demon of inferiority, demon of uncertainty and demon of bitterness."* Robert Liardon doesn't mention demons that can make Christians spiritually or emotionally sick. McGraw mentions in his brochure the following demons: *"demon of deep sleep, demon of torment, demon of indecision, demon of melancholy and demon of mourning."* We don't know if Ken Thornberg recognises "indwelling" demons that cause spiritual or emotional sickness. We have heard from one troubled person, who was ministered to, at Ken Thornberg's first seminary in The Netherlands. According to him, during one session that lasted five hours, two million demons were cast out of him. *8

**NORMAL
REASON FOR
SICKNESS**

Jim Brewer lists in his book a large number of names: *"demon of shame, demon of debt, demon of suicide, demon of lack of confidence, demon of depression, demon of desperation, demon of self-judgement, demon of insomnia, demon of torment, demon of terror, demon of alarm, demon of panic, demon of phobia, demon of unrest, demon of sorrow, demon of crying, demon of withdrawal, demon of sadness, demon of suspicion and demon of nightmares and dreams."* Joost Verduijn published a book last year with the title: "Liberation ministry, help for those bound by demons". He doesn't mention in this book any specific names of demons. He does make it clear however, that Christians who have problems with demons need to be delivered. *9

**DEMON OF
INSOMNIA**

The American, Neil T. Anderson doesn't mention either, the names of demons, in his book: "The bondage Breaker". He does make it clear that Christians who have emotional problems caused by indwelling demons need to be set free. * 10

The Hammonds believe this too, but also mention in their book several names of demons. The conclusion is that, the vast majority of the writers we have mentioned, believe that those who have spiritual or emotional problems can be helped by the "Deliverance Ministry". They all assume that these Christians have problems with demons.

**NOT
PERSONAL**

Comment workgroup: It's difficult to express a different opinion when the majority thinks otherwise. Some are very well-known and have a large following. Nevertheless, we must make a few comments. We want to make it clear, that it is not our intention to make people appear in a bad daylight or to criticise them. God protect us from that. We need to mention names in order to make our point concrete.

Firstly, it needs to be said that the writers seem to have little or no contact with each other. They don't mention each other's names in their books. It is therefore not clear as to how far they agree with each other's teaching. An exception to this is Joost Verduijn who has written clearly in an article about Ken Thornberg that he doesn't agree with his teaching.

* 11 In his latest book he writes positively about Derek Prince and Neil T. Anderson and negatively about Jim Brewer. It is interesting to see that the mentioned demons all express normal human emotions. The exceptions to this are the demons of claustrophobia, schizophrenia, torment, phobia and repetition of nightmares and dreams. The burning question is: why are demons the cause when these emotions are found in people with problems, but not so, in people without problems? Another question is: are the last five demons not rather nervous diseases? Apart from this logical questioning- "prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled" the fact is that the Bible teaches little or nothing about emotional demons. These kinds of demons actually, only became known when the "Deliverance Ministry" became part of Christian counselling.

Although we can understand that it is difficult for counsellors to cope with the problems they come across in their work, we still need to keep the bible as our guideline. Otherwise, the danger is, that our experiences prevail over God's Word. The end result is that the one who needs help is not helped at all and we fail in our responsibility to be faithful to God's Word. "Watch your life and doctrine closely persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1Tim.4:16)

**DOUBTS
REGARDING
DEMONS**

**NEXT
LETTER**

Is it possible that "family demons" live in Christians?

Several of the eight mentioned writers or pastors teach that a Christian can have problems from "indwelling" demons which they have inherited from their ancestors. In our next letter we'll cover this and also speak about living under a curse and the breaking of it.

Are there special types of "indwelling" demons in Christians?

Derek Prince lists under the different demons which he has recognised the following: "*demon of witchcraft, demon of yoga and the animal demon.*" Hans Koning mentions in his book: "*demon of sorcery or clairvoyance.*"

Robert Liardon doesn't mention any special demons in his book. McGraw mentions the following special demons in his list of 21 demons: "*house demon, world demon, anti-Christ demon, demon of heresy and demon of death and destruction.*" Ken Thornberg has strange ideas about how to expel demons but he doesn't give them any special names. (see letters: nrs.8 and 9) Jim Brewer lists the following names in his book: "*demon of anti-Christ, demon of brainwashing and demon of compulsiveness.*" Joost Verduijn and Neil T. Anderson don't mention any special demons in their books.

The Hammonds mention the following ones: "*demon of sulking, demon of daydreams, demon of fantasy, demon of restlessness, demon of intellectualism, demon of irritation, demon of mental anguish, demon of crying, demon of boredom, demon of caffeine and demon of shyness.*"

Comment workgroup: To say to someone who is seeking help, that he needs to be freed from, a demon of anti-Christ, a demon of an animal or a demon of the world seems to us to be very difficult from a pastoral point of view. If the one seeking help is a born again Christian, who has the Holy Spirit in him, then it is not possible to argue from the Bible that his spiritual life is governed by a demon. If a Christian, one who believes and loves Christ, hears that a demon of anti-Christ is living in him then, this is no longer the Christian message.

**DEMON OF
YOGA?**

**THE
GOSPEL
IS GOOD
NEWS**

The same applies to a Christian who needs help, when he is told that he has a house demon or a demon of death and destruction in him. Ken Thornberg really goes too far when he claims that there are 2 million demons in one Christian who sought his help (see above). How is it possible that he who is a born again Christian could be possessed by two million demons? If this were true wouldn't one immediately reject the gospel? Happily the person in question didn't do this, but he was very upset with Ken Thornberg and his counselling team.

What actually are demons?

We have taken it for granted that our readers know this. We'll touch on this briefly, for those who aren't so sure. We can't go into too much detail as this would make the letter too long. The vast majority of Christians agree that demons are fallen angels, who instructed by satan try to make life difficult for Christians. There are a few who believe that demons are a special type of earth creatures who are instructed by satan to trouble us. Derek Prince shows this inclination * 12. Another evangelical group, coming up these last twenty years, believes that it's possible to discover how the hierarchy of satan's kingdom works. They speak about chief demons, city demons and district demons.

Comment workgroup: We don't believe that demons are special earth creatures but fallen angels. They make life difficult for people as instructed by the devil, the chief fallen angel. He was the first to disobey God and since then he does everything he can to tempt mankind to be disobedient too. In our next letter we'll deal with the organisational structure of the kingdom of darkness. We will also talk about the subject "spiritual mapping".

***NO SPECIAL
EARTH
CREATURES***

"Possessed" Christians or "Oppressed" Christians?

A difference is made by some, who agree with this teaching, between possession and oppression. In the first case it is believed that the Christian who needs help is really possessed by demons. This can be compared to the possessed people we wrote about in our previous letter. In the second case a lighter "contact" with demons is assumed. This involves a close contact with a demon in which the person is not able to break free. Derek Prince speaks in his book about a complete possession by demons. This is obvious in his book, "They will drive out evil spirits". Hans Koning believes that the "oppression" needs to be broken. Robert Liardon says, although it's not too clear, that it has to do with "oppression". Ray McGraw also speaks about an "oppression" from a demon and the need to be freed from this. He speaks about breaking the communication between the person and the demon. Ken Thornberg believes in the casting out of demons. Jim Brewer is convinced that the demons possess the person. His whole book is about the casting out of demons, which according to him can only be done by means of the deliverance ministry. Joost Verduijn and Neil T. Anderson believe more in an "oppression" of the person by a demon. Dr. H.J.Koorevaar from Belgium, writes in his brochure: "Pastoral care and the occult" about both the possession and oppression of born again Christians * 13. The Hammonds speak in their book about indwelling demons, which need to be cast out.

***OUTSIDE OR
FROM
FROM
INSIDE?***

Comment workgroup: There is in practice not much difference between being oppressed by a demon where the person has to do what satan wants and being possessed by a demon where the person is controlled by satan. Being oppressed only sounds less dangerous than being possessed. In both cases the devil is in control in the person's life. This conclusion is supported when we see that the same method of deliverance is used for a person who is oppressed and one who is possessed. The writers in their books suggest the use of the same formulary prayers for the two categories.

***NOT MUCH
DIFFERENCE***

***MANS
OWN
SPIRIT***

Three different spirits in the body of a Christian?

When God created man in Paradise, He first made a body from the dust of the ground. He then breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living being. Man's body received a spirit, his own spirit. Man's life's journey had begun on earth. Sometimes satan managed to enter the spirit of man and place an evil spirit in him. Such a person was then recognised by others as possessed, and treated as such. Fortunately, this was not so common (see letter nr.17). Man served God or sinned against Him with his own spirit. He was influenced in this by his own sinful flesh and satan's temptations. Man was actually in a pretty miserable state. God however, loved His creation and put into action His eternal plan of salvation. Already before the creation God had His plan ready. With the fall of man God began immediately to announce His plan of redemption. It became real at the birth of His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave His life as a ransom for the sins of man and brought reconciliation between God and man. After this reconciliation God gave to man new birth and came to live in him by His Holy Spirit. Such is God's uniqueness and love. He, the great and mighty God was willing to live in His creatures. This creature can therefore say: *"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship, and by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."* (Rom.8:15)

**GOD'S
SPIRIT
IN US**

The gospel means good news, and that's what it is. God's Spirit enters the spirit of man, which is empty and therefore can't function as He wants it to. That's why it is now possible to put aside the old sinful life and to be made holy through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Because of this he is able to honour his Maker, in a way that pleases Him. The born again man is even allowed to call God His Father.

Satan is not at all pleased with these events. This man no longer allows himself to be deceived by satan's evil spirit, but listens rather to the indwelling Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps man lead a holy life. Satan's deceitful tricks are no longer believed by this born again man. Satan concentrates his attention therefore upon the old man in the Christian, hoping to catch him out. The Holy Spirit tells the Christian to read God's Word, in which we read: *"For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."* (Rom.6:6)

**STRUGGLE
AGAINST
TEMPTATION**

Christians have nothing more to fear from satan as long as they listen to God's Holy Spirit. After all that God has done could satan dwell with one or more demons, in a Christian? Is he capable of wedging his way in between the renewed spirit of man and the indwelling Spirit of God to take up residence there? This is not logical in God's order. His gospel is a perfect gospel with no room for "buts". The message of the Bible is one of love and trust. There is no more fear for a Christian. There is also no more reason to be fearful of demon possession. None of the writers of the Bible show any inclination to think like this. The born again Christian doesn't need to be afraid anymore of satan and his henchmen. It is therefore very unlikely that evil spirits can possess a Christian. There is no place in his body for an evil spirit. He is filled with the Holy Spirit.

**BETTER FOR
THOSE IN
NEED**

This brings up the question: if an evil spirit would be able to hold firm being so near to God's Spirit. It would mean a confrontation with the Holy God, Who cursed him in Paradise. When Jesus was on earth and had a confrontation with evil spirits they hadn't much to say for themselves and fled from His presence as quickly as possible. When Jesus met the possessed man at Gerases the demons asked to be allowed to enter the pigs. When Jesus gave them permission they rushed away from Him as quickly as possible and disappeared in the lake. In the letter of James we read: *"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder."* (James 2:19) It is very unlikely that an evil spirit would be able to stand being the third spirit living in a man. He would then be

very near to God's Spirit, who is living in the person. The Bible leads us to understand that satan can't stand being near Him and flees, shuddering.

How do we care for the one in need? Is the above teaching not hard?

We think that for the Christian who has serious problems it must be a wonderful relief to be told that he doesn't have demons living in him. We do acknowledge that Christians can have very serious problems and they do need pastoral care. If however, the ministry of casting out of demons is not biblical then we do need help of another kind. This demands much patience and coaching from the pastor. He will have to teach the person from the bible how he needs to live. How he needs to make room in his life for obedience to the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Bible is so complete that there is an answer for every person no matter how great his problems are. It does demand much patience and wisdom from the counsellor and persistence from the person himself

On behalf of the workgroup,

Pastor Rien van de Kraats.

The study "Deliverance, demonization and the Christian" available.

We are aware of the fact that we have not been able to cover this subject exhaustively. Fortunately, we have available a study, comprising of about twenty pages. The writer, Albert Dager, Media Spotlight in America, covers thoroughly the different aspects involved in the casting out of demons. He notes at the end all the verses (written out), which he believes have to do with the subject. He has also included an appendix where he warns of the dangers of reading Frank Peretti's books. Peretti says himself that what he writes is fiction and mustn't be taken as biblical reality. If you would like this study we can send you a copy. You can also obtain it from: Media Spotlight, P.O.Box 290, Redmond, WA 98073-0290.

*EXTENSIVE
STUDY*

Concluding the subject of this letter and announcing the next one.

We feel that we have covered sufficiently in this letter the subject of "indwelling" demons in Christians. In our next letter we will deal with family demons, living under and being freed from a curse, territorial demons, etc.

*ROMAN
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
NOT
CORRECT*

Several recent deceptions.

The beatification of pope John the thirteenth (pope during 1958 and 1963). The Roman Catholic Church will officially beatify this pope on the third of September. "The Vatican Counsel for canonisation, recognised, with the approval of the pope, that through the intercession of pope John the thirteenth a miracle took place. The recognition of a miracle-usually a miracle of healing after a person has become a candidate for beatification-is the last step before beatification takes place ". (New Kamper Newspaper, 28 January 2000) We, as workgroup do not agree with the Roman Catholic Church that people can declare another person holy. Only God can do this through the redeeming work of His Son at Calvary. We are also not allowed to pray to one who has died, no matter how wonderful he was. We are only allowed to worship God and expect miracles from Him (see letters 12-15).

Prophet H.J.A.Geene from Puttershoek in the Netherlands. We have written before about this prophet and his false teaching. He believes that Jesus is coming back in the year 2001 to collect His Bride and take her to heaven. The thousand year reign will begin in the year 2008. He has received many revelations from God about the Bride. He openly claims to be

*IN THE
YEARS 2001
AND 2008*

the only one who receives these revelations and calls himself the prophet Eliah. Everyone who wants to be part of the Bride must read his books and agree with them. Everyone who doesn't do this or doesn't want to will receive a terrible punishment. Only those who join him, the prophet Eliah, will go with him to heaven. His letters are quite threatening. He has told all his followers to stay far away from other Christians. Complaints about this false prophet have reached us. What he says and how he acts, shows sectarian signs. (see letters nrs. 6 and 15).

Dr Robert Schuller. On the 2nd of January, in the Crystal Cathedral, Robert Schuller invited Jan van de Bosch, a well-known evangelical tv-reporter, to the front to have a talk with him. He was there with a number of other Dutch people. He told Dr. Schuller and the whole congregation that the number of listeners to The Hour of Power in The Netherlands had increased since 1st April 1999 from 20000 households to 85000. Dr. Schuller's sermon topic was: there are two kinds of people in the world: the possibility thinkers and the impossibility thinkers. The congregation, the choir and the surroundings gave the impression of a church-service but the sermon certainly did not. This would have been more applicable for a young business manager's seminary. By using the verse in Mark 10:27; *Jesus looked at them and said: "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God"*, dr. Schuller greatly promoted prosperity teaching. He only used the last part of the verse and also used it out of context. The text he used is the end conclusion of Jesus when He was discussing with His disciples the salvation of the rich. He says about this in verse 25: *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."* During the service Dr Floyd Blake, who is building a similar kind of Crystal Cathedral in New York, was interviewed. He is obviously a follower of Dr. Schuller. His new book was introduced and warmly recommended by Dr. Schuller. The book is entirely about the need for Christians to think positively and so to gain success in this life: success in career making, success in business, success in technology, success in churchgrowth, etc.

Comment workgroup: In this service, the message came over very clearly that Dr. Schuller is a promoter of prosperity teaching. We explained this in our letter nr.16. Dr. van Berghem wrote the same in the Challenge Magazine of December 1999. We have both come to the same conclusion that Dr. Schuller is a liberal preacher. Forgiveness of sins and cleansing through the blood of Jesus must not be mentioned and the Bible is only used to support his theory about positive thinking. The use of the above mentioned text is an example of this.

A wonderful response.

Your response to our need for financial support was very quick and generous. We are very encouraged to know that there are so many more readers who are willing to help in this work. Thank you all very much.

Reaction to article in "Challenge" magazine.

Many people have contacted us and most of them were positive. Our number of readers has increased because of it. A few negative letters that were published later. Their arguments were not convincing enough to warrant an answer in this letter. We were encouraged by those who sent us a card or telephoned us.

List of references:

***GREATLY
INCREASED***

***BUSINESS
SEMINARY?***

***PROSPERITY
TEACHING***

THANKS

INTERVIEW

- * 1. Derek Prince is a well-known international speaker. He can be seen as the founder of the teaching of the casting out of demons in Christians. At the age of 80, he wrote, in Jerusalem, his place of residence, the book: "They will drive out evil spirits". In the Netherlands he is represented by the "Derek Prince Ministries". They have close connections with the Berea Fellowships and publish together the monthly magazine "Restoration".
- * 2. Hans Koning owns his own publishing firm: "Shiloh Publishers" and holds seminars in the Netherlands. Date of book 1998.
- * 3. "Robert Liardon, a citizen of Tulsa, Oklahoma USA, was at the age of eight years of age, born again, baptised in the Holy Spirit and called to the ministry having been taken up into heaven.
- * 4. Rev. Ray McGraw has a church in Hanwell, New Brunswick, Canada. He has given several Courses in the Netherlands in November 1999, invited by Wim Bouw from the foundation "House of Prayer Domino" in Utrecht Organised by Youth with a Mission.
- 5. Ken Thornberg held seminars in the Netherlands in 1997 at the invitation of the Derek Prince Ministries and the Berea Fellowships. Ken Thornberg's teaching is still used in several churches in the Netherlands. (see letters 8 and 9 about this teaching).
- 6. Jim Brewer had a nervous breakdown at the age of forty. Through the ministry of liberation he was completely healed and since then he has furthered this teaching. He has spoken several times in the Netherlands. Date of book 1999.
- * 7. Newsletter, 6 December 1999.
- * 8. Conversation on the phone with the person who sadly enough announced that it hadn't helped. 22-10-99.
- * 9. Joost Verduijn is a pastor in Belgium and also a counsellor for the Centre of Pastoral Counselling in the Netherlands and Belgium.
- * 10. Neil T. Anderson is well-known in the States with a leading function in pastoral counselling.
- * 11. Joost Verduijn, article in paper for Theology and Pastoral counselling 1998 no 40.
- 12. Book, Derek Prince: "They will drive out evil spirits" 1999 page 99.
- 13. Brochure from H.J. Koorevaar 1992, material used in his lecture to the students of the Belgium Bible institute. 1980.

List of books read.

Book "War goddess", Hans Koning 1998, ISBN 90-76086-01-X. Book "Bondage Breaker", Neil T. Anderson 1995, ISBN 90-6067-639-4. Brochure "Pastoral care for occult oppressed", H.J. Koorevaar 1992, Belgium Bible Institute. Book "The prisoner set free", Jim Brewer 1999, ISBN 90-76086-06-0. Book "liberating counselling", Joost Verduijn 1999, ISBN 90-6067-871-0. Announcement of seminary, Ray McGraw 1999, Leaders retreat, Youth with a Mission. Conference announcement, Ken Thornberg 1996, Derek Prince ministries and Berea Fellowship. Book "Destroy the Controlling Powers", Robert Liardon 1997 ISBN 90-75226-08-X. Book "They will drive out evil spirits", Derek Prince 1998 ISBN 90-75185-18-9 Newsletter Derek Prince 1999 distributed by Derek Prince Ministries, Heemskerk. Articles from Jan Sjoerd Pasterkamp in the paper "Restoration", October and December, 1999. Article from W.J.A. Pijnacker Hordijk in paper "Promise", September 1995. Book "Demons and Freedom", Frank and Ida Hammond 1979, ISBN 907000 557 3.

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